

12.11	Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025
Directorate	Community Wellbeing
Director	Lynley Dumble
Manager	Cheree Hunter
Attachment(s)	N/A

Purpose

For Council to consider the proposed Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025 categories.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- a. Endorses Community Strengthening, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Climate Emergency, Young People's Ideas, Community Festival and Events, Major Festival and Events, and Seniors Operational Grants as the categories for Brimbank's Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025.**
- b. Notes the indicative dates for the Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025 set out in this report.**

Background

The Brimbank Community Grants Policy 2014 (the Policy) requires Council to determine the grant categories in line with Council's strategic goals and emerging community priorities. The Policy provides a strong and transparent framework to guide this significant investment. It ensures consistency in assessing, acquitting and monitoring the community grants.

The Brimbank Community Grants Program is designed to provide one off financial assistance to Not-For-Profit Organisations, community groups and organisations to deliver projects that support and improve the Brimbank community's health and wellbeing, support life-long learning, encourage sustainable living, promote Brimbank as a destination and build capacity through partnerships and networks. The Grant Program contributes to community strengthening, which is consistent with Council's strategic objectives.

The Brimbank Community Grants Program comprises of:

1. The Brimbank Annual Community Grants – delivered once per calendar year.
2. The Quick Responsive Grants - two Community Grants categories (Responsive Grants and Establishment Grants) that are open to the community across the year and assessed tri-annually in February, August and November.

Matters for Consideration

Options

- A. It is proposed that categories listed below be delivered as part of Brimbank's Annual Community Grant Program 2024/2025.

Analysis

Under the Community Grants (Major Grants Policy 2014), Council determines the Community Grants categories annually. The Grants applications assessment is delegated to Council Officers and final grant approval is delegated to the Director Community Wellbeing.

It is proposed that the Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025 categories reflect:

- 1. Together We are Brimbank Plan** that incorporates the Community Vision 2040, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan as listed in the Legislation/Council Plan/Policy context section of this report.
- 2. Emerging and ongoing community priorities** such as mental health, social justice issues, community connections, loneliness and isolation, youth development and climate emergency.

These categories will continue to support the Brimbank community to work together to implement innovative local solutions needed to respond to ongoing and emerging challenges and strengthen community resilience.

1. Community Strengthening Grants (up to \$10,000).

Projects and activities that will support the community to effect social justice change, promote lifelong learning, encourage healthy and active lifestyles and involvement in community life through creating awareness, improving inclusion, promoting resilience and developing a strong sense of belonging and identity. This may include projects addressing gender inequality, social isolation, supporting people living with disability, their families and carers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, LGBTQIA+ community, young people and the Brimbank community/residents.

Examples of projects and activities could include, community forums or information sessions, exhibitions, sports day, youth-led activities, activities that boost community volunteerism, community yarns/conversations.

2. Climate Emergency Grants (up to \$10,000).

Support the Brimbank community including environmental Friends of Friends groups to implement projects that support greenhouse emissions reduction and climate adaptation within Brimbank.

Examples of projects could include educational initiatives that raise awareness about climate emergency to a range of community groups, funding of electric and renewable technology appliances that benefit a wide range of community members, and environmental initiatives that support the community to protect the flora and fauna and produce products and food locally.

3. Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants (up to \$10,000).

Projects and activities that improve and build the community's capacity to support mental health and wellbeing.

Examples could include programs and activities that strengthen and promote community connections, reduce loneliness, social isolation, risk of homelessness, and awareness of gambling harm, raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma such as mental health first aid training, forums or information sessions, and encourage people who are experiencing or at risk of mental health to seek help.

4. Young People's Ideas Grants (up to \$10,000).

This category is for a young person or group of young people aged 12-25 years who are supported by an auspice organisation or are part of an incorporated group, to deliver a project, event or program that positively impacts other young people in the Brimbank community.

For example, projects and activities that are led and initiated by young people such as forums, sporting activities, art exhibitions, performances, mentoring and hangouts.

5. Community Festival and Event Grants (up to \$10,000).

Support the contribution of Brimbank's smaller groups and organisations that play a role in building a more connected and engaged community. These are local smaller scale festival and events primarily attracting local audiences.

Examples include art, music, sporting or cultural celebrations, Reconciliation and NAIDOC week activities.

6. Major Festival and Event Grants (up to \$25,000).

Support festival and events that showcase Brimbank's diversity, places, talents, cultures or unique offerings. These festival and events enhance Brimbank's reputation as a great place to live, work, visit and play and are of larger scale attracting more than 5,000 people. A series of events would be considered.

7. Seniors Operational Grants (up to \$1,000).

Support for senior groups in Brimbank towards their day-to-day operating costs.

Implementation

The Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025 is proposed to open on 29 May and close on 14 July 2024. Based on community feedback the earlier timeframes will allow more time and greater certainty for major festivals and events running at the start of the year.

The following table provides indicative dates for the Brimbank Annual Community Grants Program 2024/2025.

Annual Grants round opens	29 May 2024
Information and Grant Writing sessions	June 2024
Community Grants round closes	14 July 2024
Grants Assessments	15 July – October 2024
Councillor notification	November 2024
Applicant notifications, feedback and signing of Funding Agreements.	November 2024
Grants payment	November – December 2024
Governance Report	December 2024

Community Engagement

The Community Grants Officer and other Council Officers who are subject expert matters will be available to support potential applicants. A series of grant writing workshops and

information sessions will be held throughout June 2024 for the Brimbank Community Annual Grants Program.

Selected information sessions will have the provision of an interpreter upon request based on the top five languages in Brimbank: Vietnamese, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Greek and Macedonian, and emerging languages such as Chin Hakka (Chin-Burmese), Arabic (Iraq) and Dinka (South Sudanese).

Resource And Risk Implications

The resources of \$600,000 required for this matter has been referred to the 2024/2025 annual budget for consideration.

Community: potential impact on community, including public trust and customer service impact

- Yes – Lack of public trust for Council to support Brimbank's community social outcomes.
- Yes – Lack of public trust in open and transparent application and selection process.

Legislation/Council Plan/Policy Context

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategic direction and objective of:

1. People and Community - A welcoming, safe and supported community - An inclusive place for all

- Wellbeing and Belonging - Responsive services that support mental and physical wellbeing
- Pride and Participation - Community and cultural connections built through social and artistic expression

2. Places and Spaces - Liveable and connected neighbourhoods that support healthy and sustainable futures - A green place for all

- Liveable and Connected - Inviting and liveable spaces and facilities, connected so people can get around
- Sustainable and Green - Protect natural environments for current and future generations

3. Opportunity and Prosperity - A future focused, transforming city where all have opportunities to learn and earn - A prosperous place for all

- Growing and Transforming - Optimise community opportunities through infrastructure innovation and investment
- Earning and Learning - Everyone has access to education, training and lifelong learning to support their aspirations.

This report complies with the Brimbank Community Grants Policy 2014 and the Together We are Brimbank Plan that incorporates the Community Vision 2040, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report, have no conflicts of interests to declare.